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INFO RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE

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KSCA, PINR, PREL, TBIO, BL

SUBJECT: MGSF01: BOLIVIA: THREE SUSPECTED CASES OF A/H1N1

REF: A. SECSTATE 42349

[1](#)B. LA PAZ 633

[1](#)1. On May 28, the first two cases of Influenza A/H1N1 in Bolivia were confirmed by the Bolivian National Center for Tropical Disease (CENETROP). A 39-year-old woman and a seven-year-old boy have both been diagnosed with A/H1N1 in Santa Cruz. Both individuals arrived in Bolivia Monday, May 25 via the American Airlines 922 flight, flying from New York - Miami - La Paz - Santa Cruz. A third case was publicized May 30 of a 60-year-old American citizen arriving from Cuzco, Peru. He was hospitalized May 24 for high blood pressure problems and subsequently tested positively for the A/H1N1 by CENETROP officials. The individual was released from the hospital and returned to the United States May 30. Clinic officials say that five staff members are now showing symptoms of the A-type flu after treating the AmCit. None of the cases have been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta or the Americas Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Washington, D.C.

[1](#)2. Minister of Health Ramiro Tapia confirmed the cases and explained that the Epidemiology Unit is attempting to contact and monitor all passengers who disembarked at both the La Paz and Santa Cruz legs of the flight that came from the United States. The suspected cases have been dominating press headlines, but the GOB has maintained that the situation is under control and all steps are being taken to prevent further outbreak. Airport officials are still using masks and gloves and passengers are being quarantined if presenting symptoms. Bolivia received 10,000 Tamiflu injections in the event of an outbreak. The Ministry of Health has asked the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide personal protection equipment and gel disinfectant for airports. USAID's office Disaster Assistance is currently analyzing the requests. Post will continue to monitor the cases and report as necessary.

[1](#)3. POC at Post for all A/H1N1 related inquiries is Kelly Diiro, diirokl@state.gov (591) 2-216-8225.

URS